

We wish to thank our many friends for their patronage during the year just passing and to extend to them our sincere wish that they may enjoy a

A Merry Christmas

and

Happy New Year

Alma Grain & Lumber Co.

### Had the Christmas Spirit

**T**HAT the Christmas spirit of good will and charity penetrates even behind prison walls was made plain in a letter received by the "Good Fellow Editor" of a Detroit newspaper from a convict. The letter follows:

I don't know whether I would be considered a good fellow or not. Society has decreed that I was a bad fellow and has segregated me for a period. In spite of the fact that I am a prisoner, I am being clothed and fed and taken care of, while hundreds of people, especially children, whose only crime is poverty, are actually suffering for the bare necessities of life and through no fault of theirs are facing the Christmas season with scant hope of happiness.

I am sending in, which I hope you will be able to use in some small measure to bring gladness to some little one. You need have no fear of this money being tainted, for it was honestly earned at the rate of 15 cents a day.

I have two little girls of my own, and while I am sending them their Christmas money, I am sure they will be glad that I shared with some others less fortunate. Yours in Christmas spirit,  
INMATE MICHIGAN STATE PRISON,  
Jackson, Mich.



**I**n each week during Christmas, the very "smell" of Christmas was in the air. The shops were gay with toys and books and lovely gifts for whomsoever had the money to buy. And to make it better the ground was covered deep with snow—cold, crisp, sparkling snow.

Six little girls with six little sleds coasted down Petty's hill for the last time that day. There were Marion and Jessie and Gloria and Natalie, Arline and Abigail. They went to school together and came home together, and they had been having fun lately sewing, making things for Christmas gifts. Funny things they were, too, made by clumsy little fingers; but, oh, how much they would be treasured by father and mother, brothers and sisters who received them, for so much love goes into the making of gifts!

So the six little friends who had been sewing for an hour since school was out were now enjoying their coasting on the little hill.

At the foot of the hill was a little snug cottage where the little lame girl lived. They did not know her name, for she had only lived there a little while, but they could see her crutches standing by the window and when they were looking wistfully out at them as they trooped past happily.

Today Marion had smiled and waved her hand, and the little girl had smiled back so sweetly and waved her hand, and in her hand were bright knitting needles and something that was small and red.

"She must be very lonesome there," sighed Marion.  
"Let's make her something pretty for Christmas," cried Jessie, and this was such a happy thought that the six all ran scrambling and sliding down the hill in a hurry to get home and make something for the new little girl in the window.

"It would be terrible to forget her," they told their mothers.  
They told their mothers that they had made some doll's clothes for the little lame girl. And somebody's brother made a little doll's bedstead out of a cigar box, and somebody's big sister made cute little blankets for it, and the little girls fussed over pillows and cases and sheets until it was the day before Christmas and everybody was so surprised to find that Christmas was so near.

"How shall we give her the presents?" asked Natalie.  
"Suppose we tie them on the door handle and ring the bell and run away," suggested Jessie, and they all thought that a fine idea.

So six little bundles wrapped in tissue paper with long strings attached were tied on the door handle of the little girl's house, and Marion rang the bell. And before they could scamper away the door opened, and there stood the little girl's mother smiling down at them.

"Please don't run away," she called. "Polly wants to see you."

So six bashfully smiling little girls trooped into the sunny front room where little lame Polly sat in an armchair by the window. There was a red geranium blooming in a pot, and a canary was singing in a cage overhead.

Then Mrs. Ray brought in the bunch of packages the children had brought, and they all watched Polly while she opened them, and each one cried, "Merry Christmas, Polly, dear!" when she opened their package, and when she found the bedstead they all cried

"Merry Christmas!" together with one voice. Polly was so happy that she cried over her dear little presents, and then Mrs. Ray said that Polly had something for them—she had watched them going past each day and wanted to know them somehow. Then Mrs. Ray brought out for Christmas gifts for the girls six of the dearest kittens, each one with a bow of red ribbon around its neck. There were three black ones and three gray ones, and there was one white one left, which was to be Polly's own.

And when Christmas was over the little girls formed a sewing club. They called it the Kitten club, and they met each time at Polly's house, and then a wonderful thing happened. A great doctor came to see Polly, and he said that he could make her well.

"So I can slide downhill next Christmas!" she asked.

"Yes," he laughed, "I promise that you will be able to slide downhill next Christmas."

### DESTROYING INSECTS.

Missouri College of Agriculture Issues Information For Getting Rid of Pests.

[T. J. Talbert, Missouri station.]  
Corn root worms yield best to crop rotation, systematic clean culture and fall plowing.

Garden webworms eat alfalfa, live and spin webs over the plant. If your field is badly infested cut the alfalfa and disk the ground.

Wireworms injure corn and potatoes most, but feed freely on wheat and oats. They thrive best in sod ground and may be controlled by crop rotation, fall plowing and good cultivation. So may the grubworms.

Grasshoppers damage field and garden crops and fruit and shade trees. Poison spray must be used early in the morning kills them, and their eggs may be destroyed by cultivating pastures, meadows and waste lands late in the fall.

Corn root lice suck the juices from the roots in corn, grasses and weeds. They deposit an excretion of small brown granules which retard growth and may be controlled by crop rotation, fall plowing and early spring cultivation to destroy weeds and grasses.

Tree and shrub borers, which attack the leaves or twigs and bore into the bark, may be trapped in white dishes or killed with poison spray. These insects are most numerous in the fall and may be controlled by spraying with poison spray in the fall.

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Some Hungry.  
BBI—Do you suppose you could ever be hungry enough to eat horse?  
JIM—Why, I've been hungry enough to eat a clothe horse.—Yonkers Statesman.



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Fortino Brothers offer in  
Delicious Fruit and the  
Lowest Prices.

Special for Xmas, a carload of Bananas and a carload of Oranges and other fine fruits on the way to Alma.

Remember that we have always been saving you money on fruit and that we can now. Even if you don't buy from us get our prices.

Grape Fruit 50c doz. and up.  
Oranges 15c doz and up.  
Bananas that other stores sell by the pound, we are still charging the same old price we always did.  
15c and 20c for the best.

For Men  
Tobacco and Cigars  
put up special for  
Christmas Presents  
in fancy boxes.

Our Package Candy  
We carry a full line of Low-ney's, Johnston's, Brook's the three best lines of Chocolates.  
Priced 25c to \$10.00 per box.

Celery, Lettuce, Figs, Dates, Cocoanuts and Fancy Apples for table use at very low prices.

Christmas Nuts  
A full line of Christmas Nuts at the lowest possible prices.

All kinds of bulk Chocolates, broken Taffy other Christmas mixtures.

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